

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS, ENCOURAGING THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSIGN
FOREMOST ATTENTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SUPPORTING THE FULL
REMEDATION OF THE SAN JACINTO WASTE PIT SUPERFUND SITE; AND
PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

WHEREAS, over the years, the City of Baytown has taken progressive steps in preserving and protecting and improving the water quality of the public waters within and adjacent to the corporate limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, one such step was the enactment of the City's watershed protection ordinance in 2007, which regulations protect the health, safety and general welfare of city residents; protect public water resources and to improve water quality; cause the use of management practices by the city and its citizens that will reduce the adverse effects of polluted runoff discharges into waters of the State; and protect current or potential public water supplies; and

WHEREAS, another step includes the buy-out and conversion of the property within the Brownwood Subdivision, which is contiguous to the San Jacinto River where it meets the Houston Ship Channel, to the Baytown Nature Center, a nature preserve, wherein a vast number of the 500 acres were returned to a mix of tidal wetlands, fresh and brackish water pools and forested islands; and

WHEREAS, the Baytown Nature Center is used to educate and promote ecology, wildlife and healthy habitats and is home to over 300 species of birds and 40,000 annual visitors, including fishermen who have had to contend with consumption advisories issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife based upon the Texas Department of State Health's findings of PCBs in our local waterways for almost thirty (30) years; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief that the City's efforts in preserving, protecting and improving water quality of the public waters within and adjacent to the corporate limits of the City will be rendered futile unless all of the toxic waste in the San Jacinto Waste Pits is removed; and

WHEREAS, other means implemented in the past in attempts to preserve the public health, including the protective cap that was designed to keep tons of dioxin waste out of the San Jacinto River at the super fund site, have failed and have created an ongoing danger to the public, ecology and wildlife in the area; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency apply a permanent resolution to the toxic waste dump in San Jacinto River, located in the center of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States and in an area which is prone to hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding and tidal surges; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments cannot allow the toxic waste to remain in the San Jacinto Waste Pits and thereby allow the release of dioxin for centuries;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Baytown Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the City Council of the City of Baytown to encourage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to completely surround the San Jacinto Waste Pits with a wall, to pump the water out of the contained site, to dig the waste out, and to haul it to a safe location; and

WHEREAS, such action is the only action that will be acceptable to ensure that the polluting agent releasing dioxins does not continue for years to come; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS, AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS:

Section 1: That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Baytown, Texas, and the City Council of the City of Baytown respectfully request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assign foremost attention to public health and support and implement the full remediation of the San Jacinto Waste Pit Superfund Site.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Texas.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage by both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Baytown, Texas, and the City Council of the City of Baytown, Texas.

INTRODUCED, READ and PASSED, by the affirmative vote of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Baytown, Texas, this the 6th day of July, 2016.

WAYNE GRAY, Chairman

HOWARD HUNT, Board Member

KEVIN JONES, Board Member

AUGUSTIN LOREDO, III, Board Member

BILLY BARNETT, Board Member

MICHELLE BITTERLY, Board Member

CARMEN TORRES, Board Member

INTRODUCED, READ and PASSED by the affirmative vote of the City Council of the City of Baytown, this the 14th day of July, 2016.

STEPHEN H. DONCARLOS, Mayor

MERCEDES RENTERIA III, Council Member

CHRIS PRESLEY, Council Member

BRANDON CAPETILLO, Council Member

TERRY SAIN, Council Member

DAVID MCCARTNEY, Council Member

ROBERT HOSKINS, Council Member

ATTEST:

LETICIA BRYSCH, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

IGNACIO RAMIREZ, SR., City Attorney